



Feather River Habitat Conservation Plan Development Committee

OVERVIEW

A. Introduction

Flood management activities in the Feather River Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Area have degraded aquatic, riparian and marsh habitats that are critical for the recovery of diverse wildlife and fish species. To restore habitats while also providing for needed flood control, DWR is developing an HCP to support implementation of the 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) and Central Valley Flood System Conservation Strategy (Conservation Strategy) within the Plan Area. The Feather River HCP will cover CVFPP and Conservation Strategy activities including routine maintenance, structural repairs, reconstruction, improvements to or new levee construction, and conservation actions such as levee setbacks, ecosystem restoration and enhancement, including the removal of fish passage barriers.

The Feather River HCP will:

- Provide a regional incidental take permit in the Feather River HCP Planning Area for DWR and participating Local Maintaining Agencies (LMA(s)) for Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act compliance;
- Establish mitigation requirements (e.g., mitigation ratios) for unavoidable incidental take;
- Establish avoidance and minimization measures; and
- Support more efficient maintenance and project construction processes

B. Committee Purpose

DWR is establishing the Feather River HCP Development Committee to engage state and federal natural resource agencies in the development, improvement, and implementation of the Feather River HCP, and its integration with the CVFPP and Conservation Strategy.

DWR plans to engage the committee to:

- 1) solicit advice and cooperative solutions on policy and technical conservation topics
- 2) identify critical issues and discuss options for resolving these issues, including short- and long-term approaches
- 3) identify key opportunities for collaboration with other programs, planning efforts and related activities
- 4) inform the HCP stakeholder engagement process and expand partnerships to support successful implementation of the Feather River HCP
- 5) Coordinate with agencies (e.g., Army Corps of Engineers and State Water Quality Control Board, CA Department of Fish and Game) regarding development of other regional permits (e.g., for compliance with the Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, CA Fish and Game Code, etc.).

C. Technical Advisory Committees

DWR will also convene two Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) which will serve as technical subcommittees to the HCP Development Committee: the Fish TAC and the Terrestrial TAC. The Fish and Terrestrial TACs will be charged with providing technical and biological expertise to support the identification of covered species, development of conservation goals and objectives and assessment of impacts to covered species.

The TACs will primarily consist of fish and terrestrial species experts from state and federal natural resource agencies, and experts from non-governmental organizations as needed.

D. Stakeholder Committee

A stakeholder committee will be convened to provide expertise and advice to ensure development of an HCP that benefits the local flood management community and meets the interests of diverse stakeholders.

D. Anticipated HCP and Meeting Schedules

DWR intends to complete the Feather River HCP process by the end of 2016.

The Feather River HCP Development Committee will begin meeting in 2014 on a bi-monthly basis (second Thursday of every other month), and will continue to meet as needed throughout the HCP development and implementation process.

The Fish TAC and Terrestrial TAC will meet as needed.

The Stakeholder Committee will meet quarterly and as needed.

E. DWR Sponsor

Leah McNearney, FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office

F. Support Staff

DWR Management Support:

Terri Gaines, FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office

Key Development and Technical Support:

Adam Wagschal and other staff, H. T. Harvey & Associates

Collaboration/Facilitation Team:

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